Aaron Ruben

SPEECH

INTRO

The Battle of New Orleans, America’s Final Battle. (NEXT SLIDE) On December 24th, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed in Ghent, Netherlands, which was the peace treaty between the Americans and the British, ending the War of 1812. However, news of this treaty would not reach New Orleans in time, and the Battle of New Orleans would continue to rage on until about February 5th, when the British sailed for home. (NEXT SLIDE) My objective is to be able to list the two specific battles that occurred during the Battle of New Orleans.

BATTLE OF DECEMBER 23RD

(NEXT SLIDE) By December 12th, the British had already taken control of Lake Borgne, a location not far from Andrew Jackson’s location. Lead by British General John Keane, the British forces with about 1,800 men advanced to Lacoste’s Plantation, where they set up camp. When Andrew Jackson was informed of this, he said the famous saying “By the Eternal, they shall not sleep on our soil.”On December 23rd, General Andrew Jacskson took an army of about 2,131 men and attacked the unsuspecting British, then falling back to the Rodriguez Canal. As you can see here, (point to the PowerPoint), the Americans had less casualties than the British, and also created more opportunity from this battle, for they received more time to turn their location into a more fortified base, which gave them higher chance of winning this fight.

BATTLE OF JANUARY 8TH

(NEXT SLIDE) On January 8th, the British army, led by General Edward Pakenham, launched an attack on the American’s position. He first sent William Thorton and an army of 780 soldiers to the left flank, (POINT TO BOTTOM)but that was delayed due to one of the trenches being built by Americans collapsing, causing the river to flow again and drag Thorton’s army back down the river in mud flow. Then, the Highlanders forgot to bring ladders to cross the earthworks (point to on PPT) and were again repulsed by Line Jackson, a rifleman battalion that dominated the British with grapeshot and musket balls. The second assault followed, led by Pakenham and Gibbs, but were defended successfully by the Americans,(POINT) killing General Pakenham and General Gibbs. After this, General Lambert took control of the British and withdrew from the battle, leading to an American victory. (NEXT SLIDE) As you can see here (point to PPT), the Americans won this battle by a substantial margin, with America receiving less than 100 casualties and the British receiving over 2,000. (NEXT SLIDE)On February 5th, even after receiving a siege machine and reinforcements, the British retreated back to their home while declaring the Americans successful. You can see the British were dominated through the entire overall (POINT), with them suffering over 3000 casualties and America suffering 300. Although this battle was lopsided originally, with about 9000 troops going against only 4000, British being stronger, America defeated the British, boosting the pride of America, and helping propel Andrew Jackson to president and helping America see that one of the greatest challenges in their history could be defeated.